

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 18159

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG EEW^T JA SU
SUBJECT: SIBERIAN OIL/GAS PROJECT: US PARTICIPATION

REF: A. STATE 194517
B. TOKYO 10657

1. MOFA FIRST EAST EUROPEAN DIVISION DIRECTOR TOGO HAS GIVEN US FOLLOWING DRAFT MEMORANDUM ON U.S.-JAPAN COOPERATION IN SIBERIAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. GOJ PROPOSES SIMPLY TO DELIVER MEMORANDUM TO USG THROUGH EMBASSY TOKYO AND DOES NOT EXPECT A REPLY. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE US AS TO ACCEPTABILITY OF PROPOSED JAPANESE MEMORANDUM.

2. BEGIN TEXT. 1. AS FOR THE SIBERIAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY JAPAN FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECURING A PORTION OF THE RAW MATERIALS ESSENTIAL TO IT, THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN HAS TAKEN NECESSARY MEASURES FOR COOPERATION IN THESE PROJECTS INCLUDING THE EXTENTION OF CREDITS.

AS A RESULT OF THE ABOVE, THE FOLLOWING SEVEN PROJECTS HAVE SO FAR BEEN IMPLEMENTED OR ARE IN THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION:

(1) FAR EAST TIMBER DEVELOPMENT (KS) PROJECT,
(2) URANGEL PORT CONSTRUCTION PROJECT,
(3) PULP AND CHIPS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT,
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(4) SOUTH YAKUTSK COKING COAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT,

(5) SECOND FAR EAST TIMBER DEVELOPMENT (2ND KS PROJECT.)

(6) SAKHALIN ISLAND SHELF EXPLORATION PROJECT,

(7) YAKUTSK NATURAL GAS EXPLORATION PROJECT.

2. HOWEVER, AS FAR AS THE PROJECTS REGARDING OIL AND GAS AMONG THOSE MENTIONED ABOVE ARE CONCERNED, SIMULTANEOUS PARTICIPATION OF THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN SOUGHT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN, SINCE THESE PROJECTS ARE RELATED TO STRATEGIC MATERIALS AND SINCE THEY ARE LARGE-SCALE UNDERTAKINGS REQUIRING HUGE AMOUNTS OF FINANCING AND A CONSIDERABLE LENGTH OF TIME FOR COMPLETION.

3. THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT THEREFORE, HAS REQUESTED THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO UNDERSTAND AND TO SUPPORT THE POSITION OUTLINED IN THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPH DURING THE JAPAN-UNITED STATES SUMMIT TALKS HELD IN 1974 AND THROUGH OTHER CONTACTS BETWEEN THE OFFICIALS CONCERNED OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.

4. THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN IS PLEASED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS EXPRESSED IN THE PAST ITS INTENTION TO COOPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN IN THESE ENDEAVORS, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF U.S. LAWS AND POLICIES. THE GOJ IS FURTHER PLEASED TO NOTE THAT AS A FIRST STEP TOWARDS THE MATERIALIZATION OF JAPAN-UNITED STATES COOPERATION, AN AMERICAN FIRM (GULF OIL CORP.) HAS PARTICIPATED IN THE SAKHALIN ISLAND SHELF EXPLORATION PROJECT AS A MEMBER OF THE JAPANESE CONSORTIUM.

5. WITH REGARD ALSO TO THE YAKUTSK NATURAL GAS PROJECT, ON WHICH A GENERAL AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED IN PARIS LAST MARCH, IT IS FURTHER APPRECIATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN THAT AMERICAN FIRMS (AMERICAN SIBERIAN NATURAL GAS CO., LTD. AND OCCIDENTAL LNG CORP.) WERE SIGNATORIES TOGETHER WITH THE JAPANESE AND THE SOVIET SIDES, AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED THROUGH ITS EMBASSY IN TOKYO LAST AUGUST, THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAD NO OBJECTION TO THE PARTICIPATION BY THE AMERICAN FIRMS IN THE EXPLORATORY PHASE OF THE

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PROJECT, I.E. THE PHASE COVERED BY THE ABOVE AGREEMENT.

6. THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN FURTHER TAKES NOTE OF THE STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES THAT THE AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN THIS PHASE DOES NOT COMMIT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT PHASE OR TO APPROVE LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS IMPORT FROM YAKUTSK INTO THE UNITED STATES.

7. IT SHOULD BE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN
EARNESTLY HOPES THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES
WILL CONTINUE TO SHOW ITS UNDERSTANDING OF THE POSITION
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN CONCERNING JAPAN-SOVIET
COOPERATION PROJECTS ON OIL AND NATURAL GAS, I.E. THAT
SIMULTANEOUS PARTICIPATION BY THE AMERICAN FIRMS IN SUCH
PROJECTS ALONG WITH THE JAPANESE FIRMS IS DESIRABLE,
AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WILL
GIVE FURTHER COOPERATION AND SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT
OF JAPAN REGARDING THE ABOVE.

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